

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
OCTOBER 1, 2011 through DECEMBER 31, 2011

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 4TH quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/02/11 6pm : 30

The Springfield Police are trying to find out why a 14 year old girl was shot in the leg this morning at 49 Dickinson Street. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22News, the 14 year old girl was taken to Baystate Medical Center, and two sixteen year old boys were charged with having guns and ammunition. But why she was shot and who pulled the trigger is still a mystery. Lt. Moynihan said that people who could supply information are just not cooperating.

News 10/03/11 6pm : 30

Chicopee Police need your help when it comes to the man who robbed a gas station early this morning. Detective Timothy Foley told 22News that this is the man they are looking for. He's wanted for the armed robbery of the Shell Gas Station at 95 West Street in Chicopee just before 3:30 this morning. The store clerk was assaulted. The man got away with money. He's Hispanic, 5'7" tall, with a thin build and facial hair. If you have any information, please call the Chicopee Police Department Detective Bureau at 594-1733.

News 10/03/11 5pm : 30

Springfield police say a 14-year old girl was accidentally shot in the leg. The teen was taken to Baystate Medical Center where she apparently said that her and two other 16 year old men were playing with a rifle when it accidentally went off and shot her in the leg. Officers Daniel Brunton told 22news, the gun was found stuffed inside a washing machine on 49 Dickinson Street. Both men were arrested, according to police, The 14 year old girl may also be charged.

News 10/03/11 12pm : 30

Enfield, Connecticut police have arrested a suspect in connection with a fatal stabbing at the Motel 6 in that town last week. The suspect Jeffrey Ward of Waterbury, Connecticut, was arrested there on Sunday. He's now facing a murder charge, in addition to assault charges. Hector Sibaja of Albany, New York died in that stabbing at the Enfield motel six. A woman was also stabbed in that incident. Jeffrey Ward is scheduled for arraignment today.

News 10/04/11 6pm : 30

Chicopee police have arrested two people they believe were involved in a violent robbery at the West Street Shell Station yesterday. Chicopee Police captain Thomas Charette told 22News; 19-year old Forrest Mitchell surrendered early this morning. 20-year old Augustin Mendoza and another man, who was later released, were arrested after police chased them from Chicopee to Springfield early yesterday. Captain Charette told 22News Mitchell pistol whipped two store clerks during the robbery. Captain Charette said Mendoza acted as a lookout. Mendoza and Mitchell are charged with armed robbery, two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and stealing a car.

News **10/05/11** **5pm** **: 30**

We begin with a follow up on a story that 22News first brought you this morning. Springfield police are still looking into the circumstances around a deadly shooting in the Forest Park section of the city. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon told 22news Justin Garrafa was found shot once on the porch of a home on White Street. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he later died.

They are not calling this shooting a murder, but the forensics team is investigating to find out what happened last night. 22news will continue to update you with new details.

News **10/06/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested the brother of Justin Garrafa who died Tuesday night from a gun shot wound. 25 year old David Garrafa was charged with illegally owning the handgun that was used to kill his brother in the apartment they shared. Police also found marijuana and charged him with intent to distribute. He has not been charged with killing his 21 year old brother. Detectives are waiting for the autopsy report results.

News **10/10/11** **6am** **: 30**

A teen was stabbed in Springfield last night, and police are now searching for the suspect. It happened on Ledyard Street, which is between Armory and Liberty Streets. Lt. John Bobianski told 22News, the 15-year-old was stabbed in the back and arm around 10:30 PM. There are no suspects yet. The victim is recovering at Baystate Medical Center. He's expected to be okay. If you have any information, you're asked to call Springfield Police, or you can always text an anonymous tip.

News **10/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Shots were fired during a bank robbery in East Springfield today that led to a brief lockdown of nearby elementary school. Police Sergeant John Delaney said three young Hispanic men walked into the United Bank on St. James avenue around 12:30 this afternoon, started firing their guns into the air and demanding money. Sergeant Delaney says that either blanks or starter pistols were used just to scare employees, because no bullets were found. Sergeant Delaney said the suspects took off with some cash and ran down Caldwell Place. They didn't get far before the dye packs exploded. The suspects allegedly dropped the cash and continued to run. The incident put the whole neighborhood on alert.

News

10/14/11

9am

: 30

We're following breaking news; Springfield police are investigating an early morning murder. The shooting happened around 1:30 this morning. 23 year old Devada Wannamaker was shot and killed. Wannamaker lived in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield. Springfield police sergeant John Delaney told 22News police found Wannamaker in this alley near Club Illusions on Worthington Street. Police then went into the night club to look for witnesses. 22News had a camera crew on Worthington street minutes after the shooting. Police found a fully loaded gun, marijuana and ready to sell crack-cocaine on the victim. One neighbor told 22News the entertainment district just isn't a safe place to be after midnight. Police have not made any arrests, and no witnesses have come forward. Police believe drugs might be the reason behind the shooting, once again. 23 year old Devada Wannamaker, shot and killed on Worthington Street. When police found the victim in this alley, he had a fully loaded gun, marijuana and crack cocaine on him. It is the cities 17th murder this year.

News

10/18/11

5pm

: 30

New information about the man who was murdered in Springfield this weekend. Springfield police today released this is a mug shot of 23-year old Devada Wannamaker. Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that Wannamaker had a long history with the Springfield police department and has been arrested in the past for parole violation, carrying a firearm, and armed robbery. Wannamaker was shot and killed around 1:30 Sunday morning. He was found behind Club Illusion on Worthington Street. Police are still searching for suspects connected to Wannamaker's murder. If you have any information, call Springfield police or text-a-tip.

News

10/19/11

5pm

: 30

20-year old Jesus Garcia is going to spend the rest of his life in prison. Garcia was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole during a hearing this morning in Springfield. The sentencing took place after the court heard victim impact statements. Garcia was convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend's mother, Valerie Girouard in Hampden in July of 2010. Valerie's daughter, Mariah Girouard testified that Garcia broke into her Hampden home and repeatedly stabbed her 47-year-old mother right in front of her.

News

10/20/11

6pm

: 30

An arrest and arraignment today in the murder of a Granby woman allegedly killed by her same-sex spouse. Cara Rintala arrived in Hampshire County Superior Court this afternoon after being arrest on a fugitive from justice warrant in Naragansett, Rhode Island where she has been living for the past year. Her extradition to Massachusetts was waived, meaning she didn't put up a fight. Rintala looked visibly nervous as she entered the courtroom for her arraignment hours ago covering her mouth with her hands, and breaking down in tears as the charges were read against her. Rintala has been charged with the first-degree murder of her wife Annamarie, who was found dead in the home the couple shared in Granby in March of

2010. Authorities said the victim, who worked as a paramedic, had been strangled. Prosecutors say they are confident they have all the evidence they need to convict Rintala. Annamarie's uncle told 22News the victim's family is relieved to finally see the wheels of justice turning, but nonetheless, nothing can erase the pain of their loss.

News **10/21/11** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating an early morning shooting. The shooting happened inside Club Illusion, sometime between midnight and 2:00am. Springfield Police and their forensics truck are still here on Worthington Street investigating. 22News was there minutes after it happened, as a crowd was filing out of Club Illusion; located at 288 Worthington Street in Stearns Square. Once again, a person was shot inside Club Illusion.

News **10/22/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Just to keep Springfield area drivers honest, the Massachusetts state police set up a sobriety checkpoint in the Pioneer Valley every few weeks. And they did that last night in a very familiar location. 22News watched as troopers stopped cars on West Columbus Avenue during the early morning hours. The troopers arrested two drivers and charged them with driving under the influence. West Columbus Avenue has been a sobriety check point location a number of times during the past several years. Sobriety checkpoints have also resulted in arrests along route five in Holyoke and Memorial drive in Chicopee.

News **10/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

One man is dead after being shot this afternoon, and the man accused of the murder lived in the same apartment building as the victim on State Street. 22 News was there as 70 year old Walter Dorset of 683 State Street was being led away by Springfield police officers. Detective Captain Peter Dillon told 22News that Dorset has been charged with murder. He's accused of shooting his 48 year old neighbor in an alleged dispute over an auto accident involving the two of them. The victim was shot in a first floor hallway. He died from the gunshot wound about two hours later at Baystate Medical Center. 22News spoke with a neighbor who said he know both men, and he told us about the man who was shot.

News **10/24/11** **6pm** **: 30**

70 year old Walter Dorsett was arraigned today, charged with killing his neighbor. A 70-year-old Springfield man accused of fatally shooting his neighbor in a dispute that apparently stemmed from a minor traffic accident has pleaded not guilty to murder. Walter Dorsett was ordered held without bail at his arraignment Monday in Springfield District Court. Dorsett's lawyer declined comment. Police say Dorsett shot 48-year-old Michael Drew in the chest at about 1 p.m. Sunday at an apartment building at the corner of State and Hancock streets where they both lived. Drew was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police say the alleged shooter and victim had an argument before the shooting over

some sort of minor traffic accident in the past. Responding officers recovered a gun at the scene.

News **10/24/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Police in Amherst got a lot of calls this weekend about noisy college students partying off campus. The Amherst Police Department got 25 noise complaints this weekend. And Captain Jenn Gunderson told us that's pretty normal. But, they did have to break up a large party at 872 North Pleasant Street. There were about 150 people there making a lot of noise and kicking bottle on to the street. All four people who live at that house were arrested for noise violations. And two people, one man, and one woman, had to be sent to Cooley Dickinson Hospital because they were unresponsive after drinking too much alcohol. Police told us these parties are not only dangerous, they also disrupt the quality of life for people who live in the neighborhoods.

News **10/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A Forest Park family came home to find a man had been shot and killed in their driveway. The crime has not only shaken the family but the entire neighborhood as well. Christopher Moreno and his family returned to home on Garfield Street in the forest park section of Springfield to find it surrounded by crime tape and police. Springfield police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News 30 year old Victor Mercedes was shot once outside the two-family home. Although no one in the neighborhood knew Mercedes, police did. He had been arrested in the past for cocaine distribution, a stolen car and giving a false name to police. Too much, too close to home for the Moreno family. There have been no arrests for Mercedes' murder and so far, any potential motives have not been made public. It's the second deadly shooting in the city in less than two days, and the fourth this month.

News **10/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Since the start of the year, the city of Springfield has had 19 murders. 30-year old Victor Mercedes was shot and killed outside a home on Garfield Street. It was the second deadly shooting in the city in two days and the fourth this month.

News **10/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

New developments this afternoon in the trial of Cara Rintala who has been accused of murdering her wife AnneMarie Rintala in March of last year. Cara Rintala has been free for more than 18 months and living in Rhode Island since the murder of her wife AnnaMarie Rintala. Today we heard the first evidence from the prosecution against Cara Rintala and what her defense had to say in response. But she will stay where she is until next year. I've order that the defendant will be held without right without prejudice. Defense lawyers for Cara Rintala were not able to convince the judge to allow her out on bail. Rintala is accused of murdering her wife AnnaMarie Rintala in March of 2010 making it the first married same sex murder trial in the state. Prosecutors presented evidence from the murder that happened in the couple's Granby home more than 18 months before. The entire time Rintala was

visibly distraught, this while prosecutors pointed out an extensive history of domestic violence and 2 restraining orders that AnnaMarie placed against Cara. Evidence from police also showed that someone tried to clean up the basement where AnnMarie was found dead. As well as surveillance video of Cara Rintala throwing away rags and cloths that contained AnnaMarie's blood. Overall, prosecution believed the collective evidence is enough to keep her locked up until the trial. Over the case of an 18 month exhaustive investigation that has been pieced together it leads to the conclusion that this crime was in fact committed by AnnaMarie's former spouse, the defendant. In response, the defense lawyer argued that evidence presented could be explained and will be during the trial. He also mentioned at one point that there were two other suspects that AnnaMarie had secret relationships with and owed money to. But overall, the defense didn't think it was enough. If this is such a strong commonwealth case and this is such a high likelihood of conviction I can't imagine why it took them 19 months to simply establish a case for probable cause. The defense wanted Cara to be released on \$100,000 dollars cash bail but that was ultimately denied until the pre-trial date which will be February 7th of next year.

News **10/29/11** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police say they've taken a major crack cocaine supplier off the streets. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 25 year old John Willie Jones was considered to be a quote, a "high level target in the war against gang violence and drug distribution." Police seized 325 grams of crack cocaine from Jones' home. They also found drug packaging paraphernalia and 12-hundred dollars in cash. Jones will be arraigned Monday morning in Springfield District Court.

News **11/01/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a Vermont woman accused of hitting one person with her car, and injuring five police officers trying to stop her. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that 51 year old Rhonda Lee Brown of Jamaica Vermont was driving a car erratically around 3:30 this morning in the South End, in the parking lot of the Dunkin' Donuts at 808 Main Street. Sgt. Delaney says Brown hit a 33 year old man with her car before taking off. Police caught up with her in the parking lot of the McDonalds in the North End where Brown was allegedly driving in circles and smashing into cars. Two officers were hit by the car and the car smashed into the side window of the restaurant. Brown allegedly took off again and was finally stopped and arrested by police nearby on Dwight Street. The pedestrian and 5 officers in all were taken to Baystate Medical Center. They were all treated for minor injuries and should be okay.

News **11/01/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Montague police chief Raymond Zukowski told 22News, 20 year old Tyler Hagmaier stabbed his neighbor in the chest around 3:30 this morning. It happened behind this house. Justin Fermann heard some noise in his backyard, and when he confronted the person, Hagmaier stabbed him. Police told 22News, Hagmaier lives here on Randall Wood drive. He is charged with attempted murder and two other charges. Furmin is going to be okay, he is in

good condition at Baystate medical center.

News **11/03/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A former bartender at a Chicopee bar has been sentenced to up to 11 years in prison for fatally stabbing a customer. Derek Fish was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the July 2010 death of Eamonn Gallagher at the B Bar. Prosecutors say Fish and Gallagher got into a fight after Fish threw away Gallagher's drink at closing time.

News **11/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Two people were shot in Springfield overnight less than an hour apart, and one of those people died. One Springfield Police officer is in the hospital after being hit by a car. Springfield Police Cpt. Sheryl Clapprood told 22News officers pulled over three young men, one whom was driving a stolen vehicle on Taylor Street at 1:30 early Sunday morning. But when Officer Matthew Benoit got out of his cruiser, the driver of the car, 18 year-old Tahiem Goffe allegedly struck the cruiser behind him and then ran over Officer Benoit. Goffe tried to flee but Springfield Police opened fire. Goffe is in critical condition at Bay State Medical Center and the other two juveniles, whose names are not being released by police, are being held without bail. Benoit sustained injuries to both legs and is in fair condition at an area hospital. Some say police have a right to defend themselves. Early Sunday morning police responded to a second violent incident but this time here, in the city's north end. A man was found dead on Chestnut Street and neighbors say they are surprised because the victim always kept to himself and was known for being a hard worker. The victim's body was found outside his home. Police are not releasing his identity, but neighbors say he was from Mexico and lived with roommates. The incident marks the year's 19th homicide in the city. Springfield Police told 22News although both incidents happened just 30 minutes apart, they are not linked.

News **11/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

According to Springfield police, 23-year-old Ramon Lopez was found dead of a single gunshot wound to the head outside his home on Chestnut Street early Sunday morning. They don't know if Lopez was shot inside or outside the home he shared with several roommates. According to police Lopez was the intended target, but the motive was unclear. Police are still looking for suspects in connection with that shooting.

News **11/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Just before that shooting on Chestnut Street, there was another shooting about a half hour earlier on Taylor Street. Springfield Police Capt. Cheryl Clapprood told 22News they pulled over three teens in an alleged stolen car. According to Clapprood, 18 year old Tahiem Goffe struck Officer Matt Benoit with his car and tried to get away. Police opened fire hitting Goffe. He's in critical condition at Baystate Medical Center. The other two people arrested were juveniles they'll be arraigned in Springfield juvenile court.

News **11/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A guilty plea from Nathan Caballero for manslaughter in the execution-style shooting of a man in a Holyoke park. Raymond Diaz Junior was killed in 2009 in Valley Arena Park. He was originally charged with murder, but prosecutors had trouble getting witnesses to cooperate. The Hampden County District Attorney's Office told 22News Caballero was sentenced to 5 to 5 and a half years in prison.

News **11/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for help finding the three bank robbery suspects. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that United Bank is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects in the October 14th robbery of their St. James Avenue branch. Surveillance video shows the three suspects walking past the nearby Racing Mart gas station and convenience store. While their faces are not clearly visible Sgt. Delaney said they're hoping that the three men's clothing and mannerisms may help the public identify the men. If you have any information, you are urged to call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at (413) 787-6355.

News **11/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A vacant house went up in flames in Springfield this afternoon. Fire damaged the abandoned multi-family home on Reed Street today. Springfield Fire Spokesman Dennis Leger told 22News the fire started on the third floor. Since the buildings abandoned, investigators have labeled the fire, "suspicious." Leger said fire fighters don't think anyone was inside building at the time of the fire.

News **11/11/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An 18-year-old Weymouth man is being held for the murders of his mother, older sister, and his mother's boyfriend. Police found the bodies last night and arrested Donald Rudolph after he made "alarming" statements to officers. Norfolk County District Attorney Michael Morrissey says the bodies had evidence of "massive trauma" but would not give further details. Because today is a holiday, Rudolph won't be arraigned until Monday.

News **11/11/11** **7am** **: 30**

An early morning shooting leads to a car accident, and one of the victims is a Springfield Police officer. Police are not releasing many details this morning. What we do know is that at around 1:30 early Sunday morning authorities say a man was a shot by a passing car which then hit a police officer. This incident happened on the east side of the Metro Center neighborhood in Springfield near Taylor Street. Police say an officer was hit by a car carrying three people after one of the occupants allegedly fired at a man on the street. The officer was taken to the hospital. 22News did call the city's detective's bureau but we are still waiting to get word on the officer's condition as well as the name of the suspects. Three suspects are in custody after this early morning incident. Again, one man was shot on Mass

Street and it led to a Springfield Police officer being struck by a car. We will bring you more details as we gather them.

News **11/11/11** **7am** **: 30**

A dead body was found early this morning in Springfield. The person was found on the sidewalk near Chestnut and Bancroft Street. 22News cameras were there around 1:30 after police were notified of the body. Springfield police apparently have their hands full this morning and will not release any information about the incident yet. They say it is still too early in the investigation.

News **11/12/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Police now have more information about the alleged killers of Ozzie the duck in Westfield. An eyewitness told police she saw a group of four teenagers killing the duck. Ozzie was the longtime mascot at Stanley Park, until he was killed last night. Police said the suspects got away, but they are working on identifying them. Westfield Police Sgt. Paul Beebe told 22News, Detectives interviewed a young woman who saw it all while she was jogging. Beebe said the young woman was so infuriated she tried to save the duck but she couldn't get him away from the teenagers. Those who visited the pond today where Ozzie was killed told 22News they are simply outraged by this violence.

News **11/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Springfield branch of the NAACP is calling for an outsider to investigate the death of 18 year old Tahiem Goffe. A Springfield police officer shot Goffe nine days ago after the teen allegedly attempted to run down the officer in a stolen car. NAACP President Talbert Swan wrote the Hampden County district attorney's office asking for an objective third party to investigate the incident to avoid a conflict of interest with the police department. Hampden County DA Mark Mastroianni told 22News his office always investigates police-involved shootings and will be involved in this case. The DA's office will also look into how the police department investigated the shooting to make sure all proper protocols were followed.

News **11/14/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A longtime volunteer at St. Mary's Academy in Longmeadow has been accused of stealing \$30,000 dollars from a school fundraising program. Springfield Diocese Spokesperson Mark Dupont told 22News the volunteer allegedly embezzled the money from the school's SCRIP gift card program during the past year. Dupont said staff members suspected that money was disappearing, and the Diocese called the police to investigate. Dupont told 22News the volunteer has admitted to the theft. He said the Diocese is not releasing the name of the volunteer at this time.

News **11/15/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A 15 year old boy faces animal cruelty charges for allegedly killing a duck at Westfield's Stanley Park. With the arrest comes some closure, but the death of Ozzie, a wayward, slightly odd duck has sparked a call for change. It's a case that has caused outrage. Little Ozzie the duck beaten to death in Westfield's Stanley Park; the suspect, a 15 year old boy. Westfield Police Capt. Hippolito Nunez told 22News the teen will be charged with cruelty to animals and killing a domesticated animal. Animal cruelty charges are felonies and come with up to 5 years in prison and or a \$2,500 fine. Captian Nunez said the teen's name will not be released because of his age. But Ozzie's name won't be forgotten, he was laid to rest here near the park's office an anonymous donor paid for the plaque and there's a growing memorial of letters from children at the duck pond. A witness to the attack allegedly saw several teenagers and although one faces charges, the park's managing director hopes to put no trespassing orders on all of them so they'll never be allowed in the park again.

News **11/16/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Longmeadow Police are hoping you'll recognize man in these surveillance photos. They say he's a shoplifter who stole baby formula from a CVS. Longmeadow Police Captain John Stankiewicz told 22News that the man took \$200 dollars worth of baby formula from the Longmeadow Street CVS just before 1 on Tuesday afternoon. If you recognize this man, you're asked to call Longmeadow Police.

News **11/16/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A manhunt is underway for one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Terrorists. Just hours ago at the Federal Courthouse here in Springfield, FBI special agents from Boston announced they're working on a "credible and viable" lead that 33 year old Daniel Andreas San Deigo may be in the Northampton area. San Diego is considered armed and dangerous. He's described as an animal rights extremist wanted in the 2003 bombings of two corporate offices in northern California. He is currently the only domestic terrorist on the top ten most wanted terrorist lists. The FBI said they were tipped off to his possible presence here by an America's Most Wanted viewer. During the press conference today Special Agent Richard DesLauriers described the man's physical characteristics.

News **11/18/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A man convicted of burning down a predominantly black church in Springfield in protest of President Barack Obama's election in 2008 is requesting a new trial. Michael Jacques claims he's found evidence that backs his alibi. A lawyer for Jacques has filed a motion for a new trial in federal court in Springfield. Jacques is facing 10 to 60 years in prison at his sentencing next month. Prosecutors said Jacques and two friends who pleaded guilty burned down the Macedonia Church of God in Christ.

News **11/18/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A downtown nightclub has reopened in Greenfield even as its owner faces felony drug charges. The Greenfield Health Department and Building inspector Mark Snow actually shut

down the nightclub last week. But Snow told 22News, the building was inspected yesterday and was allowed to re-open. Greenfield police detective Kevin Rowell told 22News, they arrested Easy Street Nightclub owner Ivan Tristan last week on drug charges. It was part of a five month investigation. The police then called the building inspector to the club, where Snow says they found multiple violations. Snow told 22News the major violations have been fixed. The bar remained closed for about a week. The owner, Tristan is out on bail. He was arrested for the possession of cocaine and the possession with intent to distribute the drug, a felony.

News **11/19/11** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield Police have made at least two arrests in an unusual armed robbery on Dwight Street around 1am this morning. Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22news four victims were stopped by a squirt gun painted black. The robbers initially got away with a wallet and cash but police was able to get some of the stolen items back.

News **11/20/11** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield Police have released the names of the two men that robbed four people in an unusual armed robbery on Dwight Street. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News 38 year old Miguel Ruiz and 30 year old Jorge Montijo stopped four victims with a squirt gun painted black from one to one thirty Saturday morning.

The robbers pistol-whipped one of the victim refused to give up his wallet. The robbers initially got a way with wallets, cell phones and cash but police were able to get all of the stolen items back. Both are charged with armed robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and other charges. They will be arraigned in Springfield District Court tomorrow.

News **11/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Former Holyoke Interim Fire Chief William Moran will be formally charged for making a false call that led to an accident. Barbara Burton the Assistant Clerk Magistrate of the Springfield district Court found probable cause to criminally charge Moran with disorderly conduct and willful and malicious communication of false information of an emergency. District Attorney Mark Mastroianni told 22News Moran made a call about a false problem at the Holyoke Mall. He allegedly wanted to see if firefighters, who were eating at a restaurant near the mall, would jump into action. They didn't, but a fire truck was dispatched that got into an accident en route to the call. Moran will be arraigned December 7th.

News **11/26/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield area drivers who may have had too much to drink got in trouble with the law early this morning. State Police assigned to the Northampton barracks pulled over quite a few drivers at a sobriety checkpoint on Route 5 in Holyoke. Lt. Robert Swift told 22News, his team charged five people with driving under the influence. And this is the time of year state

police step up their drunken driving patrols. But, this is a fairly new location. In recent months the state police focused their sobriety checkpoints near downtown Springfield.

News **11/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The search for suspects continues tonight in last night's shooting death of a Holyoke teen. Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette told 22News they're making headway in their investigation. 19 year old Jefforey Johnson was found shot in the chest at his home at 101 Beech Street. Initially, police said witnesses were not cooperating with investigators. Johnson's death is Holyoke's 4th murder of the year.

News **11/29/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Holyoke Police Lt Larry Cournoyer told 22News that Police arrested 20 year old Damion Johnson tonight and charged him with murder and several illegal firearms violations. Damion Johnson was arrested in Sunday night's shooting death of his younger brother, 19 year old Jefforey Johnson. Jefforey Johnson was found shot in the chest at his home at 101 Beech Street Sunday night. Damion Johnson is being held without bail and is scheduled to be arraigned on a murder charge tomorrow in Holyoke District Court. Lt Cournoyer told 22News that police also arrested the victim and suspect's mother, 45 year old Joanne Couture, and charged her with obstruction of justice, which is a felony. Lt Cournoyer said Couture, and her two sons all lived at the 101 Beech Street address. She faces arraignment tomorrow in Holyoke district court as well.

News **11/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Damion Johnson was ordered held without bail in Holyoke District Court today after pleading not guilty to shooting and killing his brother last Sunday night. Johnson is also facing 4 firearms charges, including one count of illegal possession of a firearm. The victim's mother, Joanne Couture, was arraigned on charges of intimidating a witness. Her bail was set at \$1,000 dollars. Prosecutor Joan Dietz said Couture told police Monday night that her son's shooting death was an accident.

News **11/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Two brothers convicted of assaulting and threatening Sunderland's police chief and another officer have been sentenced to 2 1/2 years in jail. A confrontation between the men took place at the police station last February. Kenneth and Patrick Jean-Babets were found guilty earlier this month of misdemeanor assaults and threats against Chief Jeffrey Gilbert and Officer Gary Sibilia. But the brothers were acquitted of assault with intent to murder and assault with a weapon in the incident.

News **11/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Burglars broke in and stole valuables from about six Amherst apartments over the holiday weekend. The thieves stole electronics and jewelry and police say they only hit homes and

apartments that were easy to get into. Break-ins have been an ongoing problem in Amherst. Over the course of the last year and a half, hundreds of residents have been victimized by thieves. And this holiday weekend, half a dozen students came home to find their valuables were gone. One of those break-ins happened at the Puffton Village apartments. Police told 22News that none of the break ins had forced entries which means all of the thieves were able to get in through unlocked doors or windows. The Amherst Police department will amp up their patrols over the Christmas break. If you ever see anything suspicious, don't hesitate to call the Amherst Police department. They said the community watches are one of the best ways to catch these criminals.

News **12/01/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Forged Northampton City checks are being used in a counterfeit scheme. Checks that came from the City of Northampton are being used as a check fraud scheme. Northampton Police say an investigation has been opened by the bank where the checks were cashed to find who took the money. Detective Lt. Kenneth Watson told 22News the treasurer's office found out two days ago that checks were coming back in the mail while they were doing their accounting. They realized these checks were not issued to the correct people. Northampton police are not involved with the investigation because these checks were cashed in Connecticut and not in the city. As of right now they know of around \$10,000 dollars worth of counterfeit checks were cashed. More checks could be coming through. Luckily, since these were forged the city does not have to pay the money. But there still is the issue of who made these checks.

News **12/01/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Its 2 1/2 years in jail for two brothers convicted of assaulting and threatening Sunderland's police chief and another officer. The brothers confronted the cops at the Sunderland police station last February. Kenneth and Patrick Jean-Babets were found guilty earlier this month of misdemeanor assaults and threats against Chief Jeffrey Gilbert and Officer Gary Sibilia. Kenneth's attorney said his client had mental health problems. Kenneth testified he was upset after police seized 1.4 ounces of marijuana that he intended to sell to pay his bills.

News **12/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police say they arrested a man for allegedly stealing gas from a pickup truck. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News around 1 this morning Michael Wellspeak of Southwick cut the gas tank hose and drained gas out of a car which was parked at 81 Randall Place. Wellspeak was found by the driver of the truck draining the gas from the vehicle into a container. Wellspeak was charged with larceny and assault after he pulled out knife when confronted by the driver. Wellspeak is believed to be connected to other gas thefts around the Forest Park area. The driver was not injured.

News **12/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The MSPCA is investigating allegations of animal cruelty at a Wilbraham grooming shop. The MSPCA's Rob Halpin told 22News a dog died at Lottie's Professional Dog Grooming on Boston Road. Wilbraham Police Chief Allen Strattan told 22News they received a tip that this happened on Saturday. Police then went to the shop and Strattan says the owner fully cooperated. 22News called Lottie's, a woman who identified herself as the owner, had no comment about these allegations.

News **12/05/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A man armed with a knife tried to rob a Massachusetts convenience store. But one thing he didn't plan for: the store clerk fighting back. The clerk said he was cleaning the store earlier this week when the suspect burst inside. In the midst of the struggle, the clerk was stabbed. He needs four stitches but is expected to be ok. The armed robber got away with nothing.

News **12/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Springfield are continuing their search for suspects in a stabbing that happened near a homeless shelter. Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that a 35 year old man was stabbed in the stomach, just before 10:30 last night outside the "Friends of the Homeless" Shelter on Worthington Street. The victim was taken to the hospital but is expected to be okay. Sgt. Delaney says the victim has refused to cooperate with police. If you have any information, call the Springfield Police Department at the number seen on your screen or you can always text-a-tip.

News **12/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Lock your cars! Police say there are thieves in Belchertown. Belchertown Police Chief Fran Fox told 22News, there have been break-ins and about 90 percent of the targeted cars were left unlocked. Richard Morrow of Belchertown told 22News he remembers leaving his car unlocked and thieves stole his coin collection.

News **12/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A man was arrested after trying to force his way into a building in Springfield... knocking a 63-year old woman out of the way in the process. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 37-year old Dale Singletary is facing several charges including assault and battery on an elderly person. Singletary allegedly knocked the woman into the side of the building when she wouldn't let him in then threatened to kill her. The woman's son was able to force the door closed and call police.

News **12/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Police have arrested a suspect in connection with a weekend shooting death in Pittsfield. The Berkshire County District Attorney's Office told 22News 24-year old Kurt Hudson was arrested by police in Columbia, South Carolina. Hudson is being charged with the murder of 23 year old Nikolas Carnute. Carnute's was found on Wellington Avenue in Pittsfield Sunday

night. He died of a single gunshot wound at Berkshire Medical Center. Murder suspect Hudson last lived at 41 West Union Street in Pittsfield.

News **12/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An elderly woman is in trouble with the law after getting caught feeding this wildlife. 80 year old Claire Butcher of Lynn has been criminally charged after she fed ducks and geese at a park in her town. City officials said Butcher creates a public health nuisance when she brings large amounts of bread to the pond to feed the water birds and has consistently ignored a city ordinance forbidding the act.

News **12/08/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Five people were arrested for shoplifting during one of the busiest shopping times of the year. According to Sgt. John Delany, 42-year old Emelinda Rios and 40-year old Luis Ramos were arrested just before three yesterday after the couple was allegedly seen taking perfume, body lotion, bras and other items from KMART on Liberty Street in Springfield. Just 45 minutes later, 27-year old Joel Gallego, 27-year old Tania Pultz, and 30-year old Hector Pagan were arrested for allegedly stealing two camcorders worth \$800 and 30 CD's from Wal-Mart on Boston Road. All of the suspects face larceny charges.

News **12/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

West Springfield Police need your help. They're searching for a man who they believe held up the CF service station on Park Street at gunpoint. Take a look at this picture. West Springfield Detective Matthew Mattina told 22News, this man took cartons of cigarettes from the service station, and from several other places in town. Detective Mattina needs your help to put a name with the face. If it rings a bell please call the West Springfield detective bureau at 263-3210 Ext. 272 or Text a Tip.

News **12/10/11** **6am** **: 30**

Four people are dead this morning in Cambridge. A former Bedford police officer suspected in the shooting deaths of three people in a Cambridge home then killed himself. Massachusetts police discovered the alleged suspect, 67- year old John Brosnahan, dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot. Officers arrived shortly before 7 last night and found three family members shot and killed and say the incident appears to be a domestic dispute. It was not immediately known what Brosnahan's relationship was with the victims. Police are still trying to find out why this happened.

News **12/11/11** **9am** **: 30**

37 year old Lacrishia Wise is being held on bail for allegedly stabbing her ex-husband in the arm at 155 Mill Street in Springfield. Lt. John Bobianski of the Springfield Police Department told 22News that the victim, 50 year old Michael Johnson, is expected to be ok. Witnesses saw a black Lexus speed away after the stabbing around 9 Saturday night. Police stopped

that Lexus at the intersection of Dwight Street and Orange Street where they arrested Wise as a suspect in the stabbing. She has been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and malicious damage to a vehicle for slashing all of the tires of Johnson's car. Wise will be arraigned tomorrow morning.

News **12/12/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The UMass Police department's looking for a man who tried to abduct a student over the weekend. It's all happened around 5:15 on Sunday evening. A female student was walking home from the library to her dorm at the Southwest complex and that's when a man asked her if she would like a ride home. According to UMass's spokesperson Daniel Fitzgibbons, the girl refused the ride home and that's when the man pulled her by her backpack into Herter Hall. Luckily the girl was able to get away and she wasn't injured but she did call police and they scoured the area but they could not find the suspect. UMass quickly sent out a text and email to student alerting them to the incident. Today we asked students on campus if they're concerned that this man is still on the loose.

News **12/12/11** **6am** **: 30**

Police continue their investigation today, into the shooting deaths of three family members in Cambridge. The victims are identified right now as two brothers and their elderly mother. Middlesex District Attorney said the identities will not be released until they are confirmed by the medical examiner. The suspected gunman was found dead in Boston of a self-inflicted gunshot wound a few hours after the incident. Police haven't disclosed the relationship he has to the victims. But they are calling it a domestic violence case.

News **12/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested 18 year old Gregory English of Springfield for allegedly attacking a pizza delivery man. Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that the victim was making a delivery to house on Sylvan Street yesterday afternoon. That's when the 51 year old victim who works for the Pizza Hut on Liberty Street in Springfield was attacked. English and four underage girls lured him behind a building and then allegedly punched and stabbed the victim in the back. The five took around \$80 worth of food. Police arrested English inside the house. He's charged with armed robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon. The victim was taken to the hospital and is expected to be okay.

News **12/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An employee at Lotte's Professional Dog Groomers in Wilbraham is facing criminal charges following the death of a poodle last month. MSPCA Spokesman Rob Halpin told 22News the charges were filed today and an arraignment is scheduled for Monday morning at Palmer District Courthouse, but he declined to identify the person charged. The MSPCA began investigating allegations of animal cruelty at the grooming shop earlier this month after a poodle died at Lotte's. The Better Business Bureau lists Sharon Kozik as the owner of the shop.

22News stopped into Lotte's on Tuesday, a woman who identified herself as Sharon said she had no comment on the allegation.

News **12/15/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield teacher will head to court on Tuesday to answer to charges he allegedly assaulted the Vice Principal of Commerce High School. Police say teacher Willie Vega became so enraged during his job evaluation that he punched a female vice principal in the face. Vega has been in this school district for nearly ten years. It's unclear what part of his evaluation set him off during his noon-time performance review Tuesday. But police say Vega stabbed the report with a pen and crumpled it up before knocking the vice-principal to the ground.

And it didn't end there- when the woman attempted to run out of her office, Vega allegedly blocked her in, preventing her from leaving. That's why he now faces kidnapping charges on top of assault and battery. School department spokesperson Azelle Cavaan told 22News as a school employee, Vega is entitled to due process. The district is following that process carefully to explore penalties. Cavaan said this incident of workplace violence has struck a nerve among school employees.

News **12/16/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police broke up what they are calling a million dollar marijuana growing operation. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that hundreds of marijuana plants were discovered inside a house at 293 Longhill Street. The large, brick house is believed to have been the center of a large operation growing hundreds of pounds of "hydro weed." According to Delaney, police were called there Thursday because a woman at the house refused to open the door for firefighters who were trying to warn residents of a gas leak.

The woman allegedly fled before police arrived. Police seized about 100 pounds of marijuana as well as pot growing and packaging materials. The woman has been identified, and a warrant has been issued for her arrest.

News **12/16/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield barber is facing criminal charges after police say they saw him selling cocaine in between haircuts. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that Alexander Dominguez, of Springfield was arrested at Flo Barber Shop on Thursday evening. According to Delaney, the officers observed Dominguez, who works at the shop, making cocaine sales. Dominguez is charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and violation of a drug-free school zone. Delaney also said Dominguez did not have a barber's license.

News **12/16/11** **6pm** **: 30**

No bail for man accused of shooting another man to death in the middle of a Pittsfield street. Kurt Hudson pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder during his arraignment this morning in Pittsfield. Hudson is accused of killing 23 year-old Nikolas Carnute on December

4th. Carnute was found lying in the middle of Wellington Avenue, suffering from a single gunshot wound. He died shortly after being taken to Berkshire Medical Center. Hudson was arrested in South Carolina.

News **12/16/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An eastern Massachusetts man charged in the 2009 shooting death of a Wesleyan University student in Connecticut has been found not guilty by reason of insanity. A three-judge panel issued the verdict today in the case against 32-year-old Stephen Morgan of Marblehead. He was charged with killing 21-year-old Yohanna at an off-campus bookstore cafe. Morgan will be committed to Connecticut's maximum-security psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane.

News **12/16/11** **5am** **: 30**

A stabbing and a break-in in Springfield may be connected. Police Capt. Cheryl Clapprood told 22news that at around 3 this morning a man was stabbed on Worthington Street. He's expected to be okay. But just after the stabbing police got another call about a home break-in at 94 Federal street which is not too far away. The homeowners there gave police a description of the suspect ...and it matched the description of the stabbing suspect. Police were able to track him down and he was arrested. They are working to determine if the same man was responsible for both incidents.

News **12/17/11** **6am** **: 30**

A school volunteer who allegedly stole more than \$30,000 dollars from a Longmeadow school fundraising program did not appear in court for an arraignment Friday. 47 year old Annalisa D'Agostino-Tollis of East Longmeadow was arrested last month after she was accused of pocketing money from a St. Mary's Academy school fundraiser. Dagostino-Tollis' attorney Michael Jennings was in Springfield District Court where it was decided that the arraignment would be continued to January 6th. The Springfield Diocese has said they want all the money back and are working to reform the fundraising program.

News **12/18/11** **9am** **: 30**

A routine traffic stop turned into a major marijuana bust on Route 84 eastbound by the toll booths in Sturbridge. Trooper Scott Driscoll from the State Police Barracks in Sturbridge stopped a 2011 Toyota Sienna for motor vehicle violations. While the trooper pulled the car over, he detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the inside the car. Police found 159 pounds of marijuana. 34 year old Andrew Locke of Arizona and his 30-year-old passenger, Tanik Kerr of Phoenix were arrested. Both men are charged with distribution of a class D substance. They are due in Dudley District Court tomorrow.

News **12/19/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The woman who is accused of killing a small poodle at her grooming shop didn't show up in court this morning. Instead, her attorney, Robert Murphy, entered a not guilty plea on her behalf. Sharon Kozik, the owner of Lotte's Professional Dog Groomers in Wilbraham is accused of killing 'Rusty,' a 7-pound poodle who died during an appointment at Lotte's. Kozik could face time in jail if convicted.

The dog's owner, Ruz Martir-Lopez told 22News she's most upset that she trusted her dog in Kozik's care for more than 2 years.

News **12/19/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A bus driver accused of driving a bus while intoxicated appeared in court this morning. 61-year-old Lionel Pilon of Palmer allegedly drove six children from the Marcella Kelly Elementary school while reportedly drunk. Lt. Michael Higgins told 22news the vice principal smelled alcohol on the bus driver's breath, and she called police. Police arrested the bus driver after he dropped-off some students on Oak Street. Pilon has been suspended from the Wilbraham-based VanPool. He is charged with driving under the influence along with six counts of reckless endangerment.

News **12/19/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield police say they broke up a million dollar mariuana growing operation. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News cops seized hundreds of marijuana plants at 293 Longhill Street. Delaney said the large; brick house was the center for growing hundreds of pounds of "hydro weed." According to Delaney police were called there Thursday because a woman at the house refused to open the door for firefighters who were trying to warn residents of a gas leak. The woman allegedly ran away carrying a briefcase before police arrived. Police seized about 100 pounds of green marijuana as well as growing and packaging materials. Police say they know who the woman is, and several arrests are expected.

News **12/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield high school teacher was in court today, accused of punching a female administrator in the face. Willie Vega is accused of punching his female vice principal in the face and trapping her in her office, all because he was apparently angry over his job evaluation. Vega was arraigned in court in Springfield today. He pleads not guilty to charges of assault and battery and kidnapping stemming from the incident one week ago. He was also ordered to stay away from the alleged victim, whose name has been released. The Springfield school department announced today that Vega has been fired.

That decision was based on the results of an internal investigation. Students we spoke with had mixed feelings about the teacher being fired before a trial.

Some told us he should have been suspended instead. But one thing they all agreed on was a sense of disappointment that the controversy has surrounded their school.

News **12/21/11** **5am** **: 30**

The State Dept. of Correction has agreed to pay a settlement to resolve a lawsuit brought on by the Disability Law Center in 2007. It is expected to cost the Dept. of Correction \$5.6 million dollars a year to improve its treatment of prisoners with severe mental illness and at high risk of suicide. The lawsuit alleged cruel and unusual punishment against inmates with mental illness. It was filed just after Gov. Deval Patrick took office and names many Romney-era prison officials.

News **12/21/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The Easy Street Nightclub in Greenfield will remain closed through the holidays after its co-owner was arrested for selling cocaine at the bar. The Greenfield Board of License Commissioners suspended the downtown bar's liquor license for ten days. Ivan Tristan was arrested in November for possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute. He is no longer involved with the bar... but the board argued co-owner Ananda Larson was responsible even if she didn't know illegal activity was happening.

News **12/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Ludlow Police are searching for a suspect after an armed robbery of a gas station convenience store last night. Detective Sgt. Tom Foye told 22news a man wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt came into the West Street Cumberland Farms just before eleven last night. As you can see from the surveillance photos, he pointed a silver handgun at the clerk and demanded cash. He grabbed all the cash from the register and took off in a Pontiac sedan. He's a Hispanic man, standing about 5'7" tall, a thin moustache, and noticeable acne. If you have any information call the Ludlow police.

News **12/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A woman arrested in connection with a home break-in on Christmas night in Northampton is being held without right to bail. 48-year-old Nancy Gehrung was arrested Monday and charged in connection with the break-in at 73 Massasoit Street. According to police a family came home from the movies to find an armed intruder in their home Sunday night. A resident of the home told the Daily Hampshire Gazette the family found the woman standing behind the Christmas tree and she allegedly pointed a gun at them and ran out the door. The Northwestern DA office said Gehrung also admitted to a similar robbery in Holyoke on December 23rd. And a robbery of a Package store in Enfield on December 24th.

News **12/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

34-year-old Edwin Rodriguez of Springfield pleaded not guilty to charges he allegedly stabbed another man on Christmas night. Sgt. Dennis Prior told 22News that Rodriguez allegedly stabbed another man in the neck, after a bar fight at the X-Pub in Springfield. The victim was taken to the hospital and is expected to be okay. Rodriguez was charged with assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon.

News **12/27/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

And police still need your help to figure out who shot a man on Savoy Street in Springfield. It happened just two hours after the bar fight stabbing at 2:15 yesterday morning. Lt. James Rosso told 22News one person was shot twice in the arm and was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. If you have any information, call the Springfield Detective Bureau at the number on your screen (413) 787-6355, or you can text-a-tip.

News **12/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The jury is deliberating in the case of a murder that was the result of a drug deal gone badly. Prosecutors say Miguel Roman and four other men were in a car in January 2010 when he shot 28-year-old Shaun Tiago three times in the head. Tiago's body was then pushed out of the car. Roman's lawyer says his client was not the shooter.

News **12/28/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Attleboro's police chief says the department is investigating the apparent theft of cocaine and other drugs from the station's evidence room. Chief Kyle Heagney tells the Sun Chronicle the drugs were determined to be missing in August and the matter has been under investigation since. Heagney says he thinks the drugs were stolen. The mayor of Attleboro says he was "extremely upset" by the news and that the misconduct will not be tolerated.

News **12/29/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An Agawam couple had a rude awakening Christmas night... someone had drilled a hole in the gas tank of their truck. Christmas night, a neighbor woke up Mary Ann Young and her boyfriend Benjamin Bilodeau to let them know his truck was leaking gas. It's a crime that was rampant in some parts of the country when gas hit four dollars a gallon local police departments we spoke to say there are fewer instances now, but it's still happening and trucks are big targets because it's easier to reach the tanks underneath. But what these thieves may not know is their not only risking the lives of others, their putting their own in jeopardy as well. The heat and friction from using a drill to puncture a hole in a tank could easily spark a fire. Preventing someone from drilling into your gas tank can be difficult since most of these types of thefts happen overnight. Your best bet is to keep your vehicles in a garage if possible or keep lights on the driveway at night. Many car alarms are also sensitive enough to go off if someone were drilling into the gas tank.

News **12/29/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A technician at a Pittsfield pharmacy has pleaded not guilty to stealing more than 200 prescription painkillers and other drugs from her employer. Police say 23-year-old Rebecca Goebel worked at a Stop & Shop Pharmacy on Merrill Road in Pittsfield. She was spotted by the store's head pharmacist on Tuesday slipping drugs into her pockets. Goebel was released on personal recognizance after her arraignment on numerous charges.

News **12/29/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Miguel Roman has been convicted of first degree murder, and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Roman shot and killed Chicopee's Shaun Tiago in Holyoke in January 2010. Prosecutors say Roman and four other men were in the back of car when Tiago was shot. His body was found in the middle of Newton Street in Holyoke.

News **12/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The search for suspects continues in Longmeadow after a vandalism spree
Sgt. Eric Wifnouskas (wiff-NOW-skiss) told 22News that at least 8 cars were vandalized in different neighborhoods throughout the town. Police say the suspect used rocks, logs and other items to damage cars... but nothing was stolen. Here on Lawrence Drive... a 'for sale' sign was the alleged weapon of choice.

News **12/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A flower shop owner accused of breaking into a newspaper editors house in Northampton on Christmas night and pointing a gun at one of the family members waived her right to appear at a court hearing for the case today. 48-year old Nancy Gehrung was allowed to skip the hearing that would determine whether she is a threat to society. She faces charges including armed assault. She is still being held without the right to bail. Police also believe she is responsible for a break-in in Holyoke and the robbery of a liquor store in Enfield. Gehrung's next court date is February 7th.

News **12/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The City of Springfield is looking at ways to curb late-night violence. First a proposed entertainment curfew, now a possible street closure. 22News reporter Heidi Voight explains the latest idea on the table at City Hall. Violence outside Springfield's nightclubs is unfortunately nothing new. Shootings.... stabbings... homicides. Now Springfield City Councilor Thomas Ashe is proposing one way to fight it... by keeping cars off Worthington Street on weekend late nights. We know that at that closing time it creates all sorts of problems on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. So why not take that knowledge, address it, and do something about it? His proposal would cordon off Worthington between Main and Dwight streets at peak problem hours... midnight to 4 a.m. It's part of a broader city effort to create a safer image for Springfield. Some residents are willing to give it a try. I think it would be a good idea to close it off to traffic. They did it on Main Street years ago but that didn't work, but that's Main Street. This is a secondary street and I think it will work out well. Yazen Asad opened his new business on Worthington just 2 months ago... and already, he's noticed suspicious activity around closing time. They're not coming for anything, they're just rounding, rounding, circling for nothing. As a business owner, Asad told 22News he could support the proposal, as long as cheaper parking lots could be made available nearby... and that's one of many ideas up for discussion next week at city hall.

Residents in Longmeadow are outraged after nearly one dozen cars were vandalized last Wednesday. Three days later there are still no leads and as 22News reporter Anaridis Rodriguez found out those affected will have pay hundreds of dollars to repair the damage. It's a vandalism spree that's left a lot of people on edge. Whoever is doing it obviously doesn't have any value of people's belongings because this puts people in a bind to get their car windows fixed this is terrible. In less than eight hours, nearly one dozen cars were vandalized. One of the cars hit was parked here, on Eton Road. I figured that probably it was some kids between 16 and 19 who have no common sense and will get caught. Longmeadow Police Sergeant Robert Stock told 22News the incidents happened between 8 p.m. and 4 am last Wednesday. The suspects used rocks, logs and even for sale signs to break doors, windows and the paneling of 10 cars parked in several streets around the town. Only one of the victims witnessed her car being vandalized but police say the description is too vague. Some of the victims have reported it will cost them up to 1,000 dollars to fix the damage. I don't know it's just disturbing. Do you have a garage? Yes we do. Will you be parking in the garage? As a matter of fact we did make some extra space and now we are parking most of the vehicles in the garage. If you have any information you are urged to contact Longmeadow Police. In Longmeadow, Anaridis Rodriguez, 22News.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 4th quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/03/11 5:30pm : 30

State education officials are developing plans to test incoming kindergarten students to determine how prepared they are to start school. They say these tests would not be used to determine who could enter school and that they should not be mistaken for an early version of the MCAS tests. The state's education secretary says the review would help measure students' early knowledge. 25 states already have kindergarten assessment programs including Connecticut and Vermont.

News 10/04/11 5:30pm : 30

There is a town meeting in Southwick tonight that could have a long term impact on its schools. Southwick is looking at regionalization, by absorbing Granville into its school district. Members of the school committee and community leaders are holding this meeting to discuss a ballot question that would regionalize the school system in the area. Supporters say this would secure \$20-million dollars in funding to pay for needed school repairs, and help prevent classroom overcrowding. School leaders say overcrowding is a big problem. For example, they claim Woodland elementary school has 200 more students than should be attending a building of that size. They say that building also needs a new roof, doors, and piping. We spoke to the school nurse here who said students are asking lots of questions about how it would affect them.

News 10/05/11 6am : 30

New changes to tell you about this morning for students who attend the Southwick-Tolland regional school district; the Southwick-Tolland Regional School Committee got its wish granted last night. The town of Granville will be added to its school district. This new change will bring over twenty million dollars in state funding to the schools. And this comes as welcome news since the districts currently facing a \$69-million-dollar expansion bill. But there are still problems within the school district that many want to see resolved. For one, the district is over-capacity by about 90 students. The school committee also says that the Regional High school has accreditation issues.

News 10/11/11 6pm : 30

Startling revelations about the quality of teachers in Springfield are made in a new report out today. A new report highlights some of the problems with teachers in the Springfield school system. Among the findings, "Mostly what we found is over 99-percent of all Springfield teachers are found to be satisfactory." Other problems include a long hiring process; many

good teachers are pulled to other districts, the way teachers are evaluated which failed to show exactly how they impacted student performance. How tenure is given to teachers and what they called excessive sick time and how it impacts student learning. The report was commissioned by a state business organization that wants to improve the graduation rate and close the achievement gap in the city. The superintendent and Springfield Education Association have been working on many of the problems already cited in the report. But, they admit keeping good teachers has been a challenge. New evaluation requirements at the state level mean teachers will soon be assessed based on student performance something that could help solve some of the problems facing Springfield.

News **10/11/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

It's been a rough month for the kids who attend the Hawlmont Regional School in the Franklin county town of Charlemont. Tropical storm Irene flooded their school's boiler room and nearly destroyed their playground. For now the 100 children in this Kindergarten through sixth grade school attend class's miles away at a school in Shelburne Falls.

News **10/11/11** **5am** **: 30**

Two major Massachusetts teachers unions are supporting legislation that would authorize the creation of a statewide union specifically for early childhood educators. The Massachusetts Teachers Association and the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts are backing attempts to enroll more than 10-thousand early childhood education workers in the private and non-profit sectors. They're doing this in an effort to boost their pay. But some fear it could also drive up tuition rates.

News **10/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Four employees of the Putnam Vocational Technical High School in Springfield have been fired after an audit of the school's finances. The Springfield public schools has fired four employees of the Putnam Vocational Technical High school and has put new financial safeguards into place after an audit requested by the new principal found dishonest and other questionable financial practices at the schools. The audit of financial transactions at the vocational high school from 2002 until August 2010 revealed poor oversight of the financial operations prior to the arrival of new principal Gil Traverso. Traverso requested the audit after taking the job in the summer of 2010. The area of concern was the school store, the administration, automotive, carpentry, and graphic arts department. Springfield school superintendent Dr. Alan Ingram called the whole situation a disgrace. Some of the infractions cited in the audit include: the use of school funds to buy equipment such as cameras and computers for personal use, and double-billing the system for reimbursement. The School Department and the City of Springfield have finished their investigation. Prosecution of those allegedly involved is now up to state and local prosecutors.

News **10/26/11** **6pm** **: 30**

In addition to city officials, parents are outraged and saddened by the Putnam audit. According to the report from the Office of Internal Audit, employees purchased computers and cameras for themselves, operated a manual checking account with no record of payments made, instead of using the computerized one already in place, and double billed the city for reimbursements of a trip that was taken by students and staff. In all the report cites seven people who were responsible. On top of those who were fired, two resigned and one was demoted. Their names have not been released, something parents say needs to be done. The findings have been sent to the Attorney General's Office for review. Dr. Ingram was not able to say whether criminal charges would be filed against the violators in the case.

News **11/02/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Schools all throughout Western Massachusetts have been closed since Monday. Here in West Springfield 4,000 students have been out of class. And despite the fact Western Mass Electric is reporting that more than 66-hundred people in the town are still without power, school officials say they are planning to re-open soon. The school bell is ringing but students are not rushing to class. Last week's snowstorm led to the closing of 10 West Springfield public schools. Superintendent Dr. Russell Johnston told 22NEWS although power has been restored to most schools, that is not what's holding them back from reopening. And that problem affects West Springfield High school, where the majority of the students rely on busing. School administrators are also trying to figure out how to make up snow days, as this week's stretch is the first of many to come. And it seems like students, although not thrilled, are trying to understand. We called both the Springfield and Agawam school departments to ask when students will be headed back to school; they did not return our calls. All we know is that as of yesterday morning, 24 Springfield Public schools were without power. The West Springfield School Department is aiming at re-opening schools this Friday.

News **11/03/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Students may face shortened school vacations to make up for days missed from the power outages as well as hurricane Irene in August. Many schools are closed all this week as crews work to restore power to more than 750,000 homes and businesses in several states. Many districts had already lost five to 10 days and used up most snow days they set aside as a cushion and it's only the start of November.

News **11/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A dozen schools labeled as "underperforming" schools in Western Massachusetts are seeing an improvement. Educators say a dozen underperforming schools in Springfield and Holyoke are already seeing improved grades, one year after the governor clamped down on the education gap in the Commonwealth. Principal Tara Christian Clark testified before the Legislature's education committee on how her so-called "underperforming" school is turning in results. Clark says the Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori Magnet School in Springfield is down to 6 third grade students in danger of failing, versus 21 last year. Education leaders say Clark's school is part of an upward trend across Massachusetts. Since Governor Deval

Patrick's Achievement Gap Act was passed in 2010, schools have had the flexibility to negotiate with teachers unions and extend learning time for students and provide focused lessons for students learning English as a second language. The Patrick administration now plans to add new strategies to further close the achievement gap between the best and worst performing schools in Massachusetts; strategies which include getting kids to read proficiently by third grade and giving health and human services to students to enable them to deal with some of the problem they have outside of school that get in the way of them attending school or being attentive when they get there. The governor's plan also includes preparing students for college and career success and provides summer classes for English language learners.

News

12/16/11

11pm

: 30

West Springfield broke ground for the new high school today. Home to more than twelve-hundred students in grades 9 through 12, the new state-of-the-art high school will be replacing the current school that was built in 1955. Students and faculty told 22News that the time is right to build a new facility.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 4th quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/01/11 6pm : 30

Another group of volunteers spent their day cleaning up the Connecticut River from Greenfield South to the Connecticut line and at numerous points in between. Hundreds of volunteers showed their commitment to rid the river of the debris deposited during the aftermath of tropical storm Irene. Up and down the Connecticut River volunteers are cleaning up. More than 1500 volunteers in four states fanned out to do their part. They lugged tires, garbage, bottles and anything else that they could clear. Even through wet and soggy conditions, everyone did it for the same reason. All of the garbage that's picked up from the river is collected right here; anything from plastic bottles to mangled pieces of metal and then they're each separated into different categories. The Connecticut River Watershed Council has held the annual Source to Sea Cleanup for the past 15 years. But this year help was especially needed after Tropical Storm Irene. Here we have same thing, tires and a lot of trash and the storm brought up a lot of stuff on the riverbanks. Great, it was a great workout, it was great to be with friends and you just feel good knowing that you've helped clean up the river and I feel great. This group met in Holyoke but it was just one of 50 groups that helped clean up the River.

News 10/05/11 5pm : 30

With chilly temperatures tonight and the next couple of nights there are some things you need to do. The first step to keeping your garden safe from frost is to know what types of plants you have outside. Perennials, like bushes and shrubs, are plants that have a life cycle of more than two years and these plants typically fair better in a frost. Annuals, plants that you would typically plant in the spring and only last a season or two, are plants that are most at risk for frost damage. If you believe your outdoor plants will not do well in the frost, you should bring them inside if you can. If you can't bring the plants inside, you should buy a row cover which is a cover specifically designed to protect plants from frost as it acts like a blanket. Without protection, frost can kill your plants.

News 10/09/11 9am : 30

Cranberries should be plentiful this Thanksgiving! Cranberry growers and state agriculture officials are celebrating what they hope will be a bountiful harvest. The state's cranberry crop is projected at about two million barrels this year. That's an 11% increase that would put the state on track for one of its best harvests on record. Massachusetts is the second largest cranberry producer in the nation behind Wisconsin.

News 10/09/11 7am : 30

It's not only shaping up to be a beautiful long weekend but it could also be a record setting one! The long Columbus Day weekend is shaping up to be out of the ordinary. People took advantage of the weather at Forest Park even wearing shorts because of the heat. Without a cloud in the sky and temperatures in the 70s and even 80s, it felt more like a day in June than the beginning of October. Normally, the average this time of year is in the 60s. But instead, we could be breaking records here in Western Mass. The record of 83 degrees was set back in 1949. As 22 News storm team meteorologists Ashley Baylor explains we're getting some good luck from down south. We saw the 60s the past couple of days but now that jet stream is sitting off to our north we're getting all that warm air from the south that's why we're talking about temperatures going into the 70s and the 80s.

News

10/12/11

12pm

: 30

While some were disappointed with the fall foliage here in Western Massachusetts over the Columbus Day weekend the leaves are changing. It's not quite a leaf peeping paradise yet, but it's a promising start. The way the foliage is starting to turn on, I think it's going to go through the weekend, beyond that we're got two good weekends coming up. The foliage is just starting to really pop. There was more good news further up the Mohawk trail in the town of Charlemont. There were more Columbus Day weekend visitors than expected. Here at Avery's general store, the prospect of two weekends filled with peak foliage certainly sounds good. The colors finally started to change, and hopefully with the colors changing, more people will be driving through here. The trees along the Mohawk trail have started bursting with color, and from what veteran leaf peepers told us, it's only going to get better.

News

10/16/11

6pm

: 30

There's apparently just enough fall foliage this weekend to please leaf peepers who've traveled a long way to get here. Visitors from Connecticut and New Jersey couldn't take their eyes off the changing of the colors. But even if this is as good as it gets, the changing of the colors remains nature's magical act that never loses its appeal. It's tough to take your eyes off one of the wonders of Western Massachusetts.

News

10/20/11

6pm

: 30

We keep hearing about the benefits of renewable energy, but could wind turbines pose a health hazard? Green energy companies are proposing to build more wind farms in Western Massachusetts, and folks who don't want them in their backyards say they're worried they can cause a whole host of health problems. Families from Brimfield are testifying before the Legislature's public health committee, asking lawmakers to set up an independent commission to evaluate whether wind turbines can cause health problems. They say homeowners in the Berkshires and the Cape who live by wind turbines complain that they cause headaches, sleeplessness, and heart problems. A key reason for the state's push toward wind energy is Governor Deval Patrick's goal to get 800,000 homes powered by wind turbines by 2020. But Representative Todd Smola of Palmer says the effects wind farms have in host communities hasn't been properly studied by independent experts and

professionals; so he's filed a bill to make that happen. Earlier this year First Wind, an independent energy company, backed out of a proposed deal to build a wind farm in Brimfield after receiving vocal disapproval from local residents.

News **10/22/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Today's dry weather made for a good day to spend time by the river. Metal, cans and tires are just some of the many things picked up by volunteers taking part in the annual Source to Sea cleanup in Agawam on Saturday. The cleanup runs from northern Vermont to southern Connecticut and those who came out to cleanup the riverfront of the Connecticut and Westfield rivers in Agawam have reason to keep coming back. But seeing all the trash left behind frustrates some of the people who volunteered to pick it up and put it away. In past years volunteers have collected as much as a one ton of trash along the Agawam riverfront, this year about half a ton was collected making for a quick improvement.

News **10/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Memories of last winter are still fresh in the memory and by the end of this week; Western Massachusetts could be looking at a return some wintry flakes. Having snow by the end of this week would be quite a bit earlier than normal, especially if we had accumulating snow. A normal first inch of snowfall in Western Massachusetts doesn't normally occur until late November or the first week of December. The earliest on record that we've ever had an inch of new snow fall in Chicopee was November 3rd. While we're probably not talking about snowfall in inches by the end of this week, people 22News spoke with are somewhat unsettled by the idea of wintry conditions coming back.

News **10/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Well while we're seeing some snow in parts of western Massachusetts right now. We're getting a mix of rain and snow right now but it's not all that uncommon to see some snow in western Massachusetts during the month of October. It was a wet October day in western Massachusetts and with colder air working in; we've been seeing the rain change over to some snow. The earliest that we've seen flurries here in the Springfield area was October 6th in 1971. The latest we've seen flurries was December 6th on 1954. On October 23rd, 2002 snow fell in Franklin County. The snow came down at a pretty good rate in downtown Greenfield. Exactly one year later on October 23rd, 2003 trees that still had plenty of leaves on them ended up getting a pretty good coating of snow in Becket. More recently on October 16, 2009 the snow made for a very picturesque scene in Granville with a coating of snow on the trees and even on the pumpkins. Now our earliest one inch of snowfall for the Springfield area occurred on October 10th of 1979. Right now here in Chicopee were seeing mainly just rain but we are getting reports of snow in Conway and Worthington and if you have snow where you are send us a picture or video through our Report It feature on our website.

News **10/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Two months ago today, Tropical Storm Irene unleashed its wrath on Western Massachusetts. This weekend also marks the unofficial end of the fall foliage season. That time between Labor Day and Halloween is when tourists usually flock to Franklin County. The flood is an ongoing problem that people had no control over. No one has control over the colors of the leaves either. But in a time when a brilliant foliage season would have helped, the trees didn't cooperate. The fall foliage season this year was lackluster to say the least. Now there is snow on the ground. We never saw those bright colors we are used to.

News **10/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Most of the snow we had last night and this morning melted away today. 22News Storm Team Meteorologist Adam Strzempko says more snow in the forecast could pose problems for the leaves still sticking to the trees. That's right Barry a lot of the areas that saw snow yesterday picked up less than 4 inches and most of it melted away today but with more wet snow on the way this weekend there could be some problems when it accumulates on the trees. Many parts of western Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties woke up to a light accumulation of snow on the ground Friday morning. With it still being fall and with a lot of leaves still on the trees when the heavy wet snow accumulates on the trees it could cause problems.

News **10/28/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Even though we had a preview of winter yesterday there are still plenty of leaves on the trees and on people's lawns. Well Brian despite the fact that we saw some snow in parts of western Massachusetts yesterday you still have time to get your leaves picked up, but you'll want to make sure you get it done or you could damage your lawn. It's the end of October and there are still plenty of leaves on a lot of the trees. While some trees have lost their leaves and are just about bare others still have plenty of green leaves on them. But when those leaves come down you'll want to pick them up. You want to keep up with the leaves. If you have a mulching mower, get out there and mulch them frequently. If you're going to rake make sure your lawn is clean before your first snow. And Peter Furnari from 16 Acres Garden Center says if you don't pick up the leaves you could have dead spots on your lawn come next spring. And once you've got those leaves picked up off your lawn you may want to put down some fall fertilizer. It's a good time to lime your lawn, gives the lime a chance to break down and do its job, raise the Ph in your lawn in your soil and also fall fertilizer. It's a good time to put fall fertilizer down anytime between September and November. Most people 22News talked to have been working on getting their leaves cleaned up before winter arrives. And you should try and get your leaves all picked up by the middle of November, by then they should hopefully pretty much be off all the trees.

News **10/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Western Massachusetts is expected to suffer from the impact of the crippling snow storm for days, perhaps weeks to come. It would be one thing if this was the middle of January, but this was a very unfamiliar sight for October. Thanks to an early winter storm, western Massachusetts woke up to downed trees and electrical poles, leaving tens of thousands in

the dark. With the leaves still on the trees, it didn't take much snow to cause a lot of damage. Countless reports came in from across the region of trees falling across power lines. At one point, there were over 120,000 people without power. West Springfield picked up roughly 8 and a half inches of snow. As you can see, the weight of the heavy, wet snow caused trees and electrical poles to snap in half leaving these roads impassable. Police forced cars traveling southbound on Riverdale Street to turn around due to electrical wires lying across the road. Even though police in West Springfield urged people to stay off the roads, those without power took to the streets anyway in search of a warm place and a warm meal. Unfortunately, they were met with closed signs. Even though this was an unprecedented storm, this isn't necessarily a sign of things to come.

News **10/30/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Winter has taken hold of our area so suddenly that the leaves haven't even fallen off the trees yet and that's creating an extremely dangerous situation across Western Massachusetts. Bending, snapping, crashing down, the heavy snow blanketing Western Massachusetts is more than the trees can bear, and when they fall, they're taking down power lines and crashing onto cars and homes. Just hours after the snow started, a tree crashed down onto Barbara Champagne's truck on Clara Street in West Springfield, just barely missing her house. Meanwhile on Parker Street in Springfield, a 20 year old man was killed after touching a guard rail electrified by downed live wires a sobering reminder of just how dangerous this extreme weather can be. Parker Street remains closed right now between Wilbraham Road and South Branch Parkway. Local and state police are warning people to stay home and stay off the roads. There are power outages, downed trees and power lines down all over Western Mass. The safest thing you can do is stay inside.

News **10/31/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Snow in October is unusual here in the Pioneer valley as we know. I'm live in Peru in eastern Berkshire County just west of the Hampshire county line, and this late October snow was more than even the Berkshires are used to. Looking around this winter wonderland, this may be a typical scene in the Berkshires, but not this early. Rain or wet snow never really mixed in up here, all white and fluffy snow. Snow began in earnest on Saturday in the early afternoon and never stopped, at times falling over the Berkshires at a rate of one to two inches per hour. This white scene is what is left behind, and while they do get their fair share of snow up here, they're not used to this much so soon.

News **10/31/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Belchertown was of the many towns hit hard by the snow. Belchertown wasn't spared by this storm. There are trees down on houses, wood hanging from power lines, and Route 9 is littered with limbs and wires. Most of the town is without power and it could stay that way until Thursday or Friday. The biggest issue that I've seen is people are cold because they don't have electricity to heat their homes or they don't have a wood stove to heat their homes. That's why the town set up this shelter at the high school. 45 people slept there Sunday night and many more came by to get a warm meal and a hot shower on Monday. And some

people depend on the electricity for their health.

News **11/02/11** **5am** **: 30**

Our late October snow storm gives us little indication of how this winter will be. But a panel of top climate scientists thinks they know and they will be releasing their findings in a disturbing report still in draft stages. The scientists blame climate change and global warming for an increasing risk for weather extremes, extremes that will possibly bring more drought, nasty storms and higher costs of cleanup. Early winter storms like the one we just had are not likely climate change related, but warmer storms like tornadoes, hurricanes or flooding rains might be an increasing global phenomenon.

News **11/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The cleanup across western Massachusetts continues 5 days after the storm hit. Once again today crews were out cleaning up from Saturday night's historic snow storm that brought large trees and branches down causing terrible devastation across western Massachusetts. West Springfield is one city that has seen an incredible amount of tree damage. On the corner of Upper Church Street and West Street a pole leans over the road and with wires on the ground drivers are forced to turn around. On Webster Avenue a large tree came down on a car totaling it. You can see how close several trucks came to snagging the branches and the wires that are hanging over the road. They've hired extra crews to come in to help cleanup the tree damage over the weekend. At last check about 45% of West Springfield is still without power.

News **11/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

It might take a sharp eye, but there are some important green improvements happening in Northampton. Northampton is finishing up \$6.5 million dollars worth of green upgrades across the city. Included with some of these upgrades are 3 solar arrays in the city including this one on top of the James house in Northampton. LED lighting upgrades have been installed in some of the outdoor parking lots as well as inside The Academy of Music. The city has switched many buildings from oil to more efficient gas heating, installed high efficiency boilers and burners and installed lower energy consuming heating and cooling devices as well as well insulated windows. According to Northampton's Energy and Sustainability officer, Chris Mason, these types of upgrades are vital.

News **11/15/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Today is national America Recycles Day. To promote recycling the Massachusetts Department of Environmental protection has started a new campaign to reduce wasteful disposing of clothing and textile products. Recycling is more than sorting before you throw away, but perhaps finding a reuse for used materials, or finding someone else who needs them. You may be surprised just how much of what we use can be recycled.

News **11/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

It's hard to believe that just 3 weeks ago, we were digging out from under a snowstorm, and today some of us may have been digging out our sunglasses and t-shirts. After a gorgeous end to a pleasant weekend, it doesn't feel like fall has made up its mind. Just weeks ago we were dealing with snowfall and the power outages that came with it. Not to mention the colder temperatures that the snowstorm provided. With barely more than an inch of rain this month and wonderful weather over the weekend many people were out across western Massachusetts catching up on outdoor chores, enjoying the warmth, knowing that the cold is also part of this changeable season. Fall is very much a transitional season; cold air to our north battling warm air to the south, bringing temperature and weather swings that make it tough figuring out what to wear, especially this year. With about a month left of fall, no doubt we'll be putting on more layers than we're taking off.

News **12/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield city council has voted to appeal the building permits for Palmer Renewable Energy's Biomass Incinerator. A special City council meeting just wrapped up about 30 minutes ago. All but two city councilors voted in favor of appealing two building permits to Palmer Renewable Energy for building a biomass incinerator in Springfield. This was the second meeting regarding these building permits. On November 28th councilor Walsh held up the appeal from going through. But tonight that building permit appeal was passed and will go to the Zoning Board. Members of the group Stop Toxic Incineration were also here tonight. This group opposes the building of the biomass incinerator. They were just informed by the Department of Environmental Protection that they may be able to move forward with an air permit appeal. They say in order to have a building permit you must have a special permit for air quality. So for tonight both appeals against Palmer Renewable Energy are putting a stop to efforts to build the incinerator here in Springfield.

News **12/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

We begin tonight with breaking news out of Chicopee, where the relentless rains have proved too much for the storm drains. Water's covering the road surface on Broadway in Chicopee Falls. Chicopee Police started getting calls about deep water near the rite aid at about 7 tonight. Police say the road's open, but unless you have pretty good clearance, it's a good idea to find a drier route.

News **12/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Except for the October snowstorm, this has been a pretty warm and mild fall. It was warm enough this fall that a number of locations across New England tied or even broke some records. The National Weather Service classifies the months of September, October and November as meteorological autumn. During those months we saw a lot of days where the temperatures were above normal. In fact the numbers now show that some records were broken or tied in some cities across New England. In Boston they broke the all time record for the warmest fall with an average temperature of 58.5 degrees. In Worcester they saw their 3rd warmest autumn on record with an average temperature of 54.5 degrees and in

Hartford they tied for the 4th warmest fall on record with an average temperature of 55.8 degrees. And we saw some warm temperatures in western Massachusetts this fall. On October 9th we broke the record with 85 degrees and on November 29th we broke the record with 66 degrees. People 22News talked to said they noticed this fall was a lot milder than normal. Even this December we've had temperatures well above normal. Last week we were up around 60 degrees.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 4th quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/14/11 6am : 30

Republican Senator Scott Brown is responding to charges of plagiarism. The Democratic group, American Bridge, was combing through republican records when it discovered that a portion of Senator Brown's website mirrored the language from the website of former US Senator Elizabeth Dole. The passages were about the values that parents instill in their children.

News 10/24/11 5pm : 30

A second Massachusetts resident is jumping into the race for the White House. Jill Stein of Lexington announced today that she's seeking the nomination of the Green Party. Stein is proposing what she's calling a Green New Deal to end unemployment in America and revive the flagging recovery. Most recently Stein finished a distant fourth in the 2010 governor's race as a candidate for the Green/Rainbow Party.

News 10/24/11 6am : 30

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people. Massachusetts is trying to prevent suicide related to bullying through an anti-bullying law created last year. Now, Attorney General Martha Coakley is trying to strengthen that law by presenting recommendations from a special bullying commission, to the state's education committee tomorrow. This commission believes schools should be required to collect annual data on bullying and submit that to the state. They'd also like to see stricter rules on cyber-bullying.

News 10/26/11 5am : 30

A legislative committee has approved new district maps for the state Senate and House of Representatives. Following a one-week public comment period, the redistricting panel voted to accept the proposed maps with a handful of revisions, including one aimed at strengthening the voting power of the Latino community in Chelsea. The committee has not yet unveiled maps for new congressional districts in Massachusetts. The redistricting plans could go before the full House and Senate as early next week.

News 10/26/11 5am : 30

A former advertising executive was convicted yesterday of kidnapping his ex-wife, holding her hostage for nearly 12 hours and burning down the Connecticut home they used to share. 62 year old Richard Shenkman, showed no visible emotion as a six-person jury rejected his

insanity defense and convicted him of all 10 charges, including kidnapping, arson, assault, threatening and violating a protective order. He is set to be sentenced January 4th and faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

News **10/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

As we heard from Christine Lee, Massachusetts is dealing with redistricting due to changes in the state population. This afternoon, 22News met with Secretary of the State William Galvin to discuss what he envisions for Western Mass. Like many on Beacon Hill, Secretary Galvin said he was "surprised" by Olver's announcement but in his opinion, it's going to make the process of Congressional re-districting much easier. Secretary Galvin told 22News the proposed Congressional maps won't be released until next week, on Monday or Tuesday. His opinion is that Olver's retirement will eliminate some territorial concerns, and that going forward Western Massachusetts would be best served by altering the two existing districts. The first would take Congressman Neal's current district and make Hampden County its nucleus by moving it slightly west. The second district would add Worcester to Olver's former district, while keeping rural parts of Berkshire and Franklin counties together. Either way, he's confident that Western Massachusetts will not be under-represented in the new plan because based on the sheer numbers of the 2010 census, Western Massachusetts has more than enough people to merit two seats.

News **10/27/11** **11pm** **: 30**

US Senate Hopeful Elizabeth Warren kicked off a series of meetings in Springfield tonight. In an effort to recruit volunteers, Warren met with dozens of people at the electrical workers union building in Springfield. His goal is to unseat republican Senator Scott Brown. Warren told 22News if elected one of her number one priorities will be rallying for student loan debt relief.

News **11/03/11** **5pm** **: 30**

One piece of the political redistricting process in Massachusetts is now complete. Governor Deval Patrick has signed into law new district maps for the 160-member state House of Representatives, the 40-member state Senate and the eight-member Governor's Council. The Legislature approved the plans earlier in the week. The new House map doubles from 10 to 20 the number of districts in Massachusetts where minorities comprise a majority of voting age residents. The Senate map increases from two to three the so-called "minority-majority" districts and creates the first-ever such district in western Massachusetts.

News **11/07/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The much anticipated new map of the state's congressional districts was released today. The new congressional map would end up lumping two members of the state's all-Democratic delegation into a single district, while creating one incumbent-free district. The proposed map makes major changes in western Massachusetts by essentially carving up the current 1st District, now represented by Rep. John Olver, who recently announced that he would retire at

the end of his term. Berkshire County would be folded into a new district with Springfield, currently represented by Rep. Richard Neal.

News **11/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

There are two hotly contested mayoral races in Hampshire County tonight. In Easthampton, retired police captain Donald Emerson is looking to unseat Mayor Michael Tautznik. Tautznik has been Easthampton's only mayor. He's seeking his 8th term in office. Today, we found a lot of supporters on both sides standing outside Easthampton High School, one of the polling places for this election. In Northampton, It's a race between David Narkewicz and Michael Bardsley. Narkewicz is the city council's president and he has been serving as the city's acting Mayor since Mayor Mary Clare Higgins did not finish her 6th term. Michael Bardsley is a former city councilor who ran against Higgins in 2009, both have a strong group of supporters and this race will be one to watch tonight.

News **11/09/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The proposed congressional redistricting map, released on Monday, splits up the county. In the proposed congressional map, Worcester's James McGovern would now represent eastern Franklin and Hampshire Counties. Everywhere from Greenfield to Northampton, Amherst and Worcester, when Congressman John Olver announced he was going to retire at the end of his term, it allowed state lawmakers' to possibly turn the Western part of the state into two congressional districts. Congressman Richard Neal would represent Hampden, Berkshire, the western parts of Hampshire and Franklin County, along with a piece of Worcester County. 22News talked to some people who would fall under McGovern's boundaries and they are skeptical.

News **11/16/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The Massachusetts Senate has approved a new congressional redistricting map. The new map eliminates one of the state's 10 seats in the U.S. House and creates the state's first district where blacks, Latinos and Asian Americans are a majority of voters. The 31-to-6 vote comes a day after the House approved the map. Population shifts measured by the 2010 census forced the state to shed one of its 10 seats beginning with the next Congress. A final vote is needed in each chamber.

News **11/22/11** **5am** **: 30**

Gov. Patrick also signed a new congressional redistricting map that eliminates one of the state's 10 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The new map creates the state's first district where blacks, Latinos and Asian-Americans are a majority of voters. It also establishes a new southeastern Massachusetts district that includes Cape Cod, Plymouth and New Bedford. No incumbent lives in the newly formed district, but freshman Democratic Rep. William Keating has indicated that he will run in it.

News **11/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Super Committee deadline to release a deficit reduction plan tonight is scheduled for a super fail. The governor says he is hopeful that Democrats and Republicans can still reach a balanced solution to deficit reduction goals - key word - balanced. The Washington Super Committee is expected to fail their Thanksgiving Eve deadline to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion dollars over ten years. Democrats, like Senator John Kerry, blame Republicans for their unwillingness to cut taxes on the "wealthiest Americans". Republicans blame Democrats for insisting on punishing "job creators." Several Republican presidential candidates like former Governor Mitt Romney are also accusing President Obama of a lack of leadership. State leaders are responding to the gridlock in Washington by tightening up state spending and growing jobs and the state's rainy day fund, preparing for the worst. Congress still has until 2013 to shave off at least \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget over 10 years before automatic cuts to defense and popular spending programs kick in. But as some Republicans note, that's just a mere dent to the \$44 trillion the country is expected to spend over that time.

News **11/29/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The Friends of the Homeless honored Governor Patrick in Springfield today. The Governor toured their new resource center that includes a medical clinic, a special dorm for women, and a computer resource room. It was built using 10 million dollars of state funding. Shelter Residents told 22News they're grateful for the added support.

News **12/13/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Governor Patrick today met with the state's newly elected mayors, including Holyoke Mayor-elect Alex Morse. Today's meeting allows newly elected mayors to have a conversation with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray and their cabinet secretaries to discuss ways to partner and build upon these efforts. Gov. Patrick said he looks forward to working with Mayor-elect Morse to invest in education, innovation and infrastructure in Holyoke.

News **12/16/11** **5am** **: 30**

As had been expected state revenue officials have certified a reduction in the income tax rate from 5.3% to 5.25%, starting on Jan. 1. The state was able to meet a series of thresholds in tax revenue growth, thereby triggering an automatic cut in the tax rate. The break will probably be small for individual taxpayers, most of whom would save \$50 or less on their annual state income taxes.

News **12/16/11** **5am** **: 30**

You've heard of Medicare for seniors, well how about Medicare for all? Employers, lawmakers and health groups are bannin' together, advocating for a single-payer health care system, like Medicare. In a single-payer system, medical care is funded by a single insurance pool, run by the state instead of private companies. Supporters say this system provides health care for all, and the larger insurance pool means lowers costs. Critics say

leaving the health system in the hands of the state leads to administrative waste, longer wait times, and a so-called "rationing of care." Governor Deval Patrick has come out in favor of Accountable Care Organizations to curb rising health care costs, a system that reimburses hospitals for keeping patients healthy. Currently Canada and several European countries employ variations of the single-payer system.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 4TH quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 10/03/11 6pm : 30

Lawmakers are hearing nearly thirty bills dealing with insurance and mandated benefits in our health care system. Small business groups say they're struggling in a bad economy as health care costs continue to rise. They're supporting a handful of bills that would repeal, limit or stop legislation that requires insurance providers or small businesses to offer mandated health benefits. In some cases, the bills are meant to be a temporary measure until the state figures out an efficient health payment model that keeps costs down. But critics say that would be against the public interest, as corporations would likely deny benefits for the public good to earn profits. Citizen groups are further asking lawmakers to make it more difficult for insurance companies to deny benefits. They're supporting a bill that would require insurance companies to prove clinician-recommended services are unnecessary before denying them.

News 10/05/11 11pm : 30

Tending to the flock with free medical care, the Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam hosted a free walk-in clinic tonight, as they do the first Tuesday of every month. Doctors and nurses from area hospitals volunteer their time to give flu shots and administer routine care. The church pastor told 22News these monthly clinics fill a gap- even though people are required to have insurance in Massachusetts, they can't always afford to see a primary care physician.

News 10/10/11 5:30pm : 30

As winter approaches more people are looking to get a flu shot. This year, towns across the state will be receiving half the amount of free flu vaccines for adults. Vaccinations will only go to uninsured adults and those who insurance doesn't cover it. There will be no changes for children ages six months to 18 years old. Cuts in federal funding have prompted the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to make that change. People are advised to get vaccinated and wash their hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

News 10/16/11 6pm : 30

Springfield's Department of Health is offering free flu shots this month. The Springfield Health Department's free flu shot clinics run through the end of October. You don't even need a photo ID to come down and get a flu shot. All you need to do is fill out this information form, and if you have an insurance card, bring it if not, don't worry, they'll give you a flu shot anyway. The Health Department's Deputy Director Bettye Anderson Frederic debunked

earlier reports of a statewide free vaccine shortage. She told 22News the state's Commissioner of Health has already ordered backup supplies for local boards of health. We had already ordered flu vaccine that we are paying for through city funds. And we had gotten a supply from the state. So we were in good shape even before the Commissioner ordered additional supplies. So that means everyone, insured or not, is welcome to take advantage of the free vaccinations. Children must be at least three years old. Two more clinics will be held this week, at the Mason Wright Senior Center on Thursday October 20th, and Sunday the 23rd at Holy Cross Gymnasium. Make sure to check with the health department in the community where you live to find out where you can receive your free flu shot.

News **10/17/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An estimated 17-thousand people in Massachusetts are living with HIV or AIDS. Massachusetts is one of the nation's leaders in HIV prevention with a 50% reduction in transmission rates in the last five years. State officials and lawmakers say the state can do even better. They're proposing a bill to create an HIV Commission whose goal will be to modernize prevention and treatment, increase access to health care to those affected by HIV and reduces costs. The commission would be made up of leading HIV and AIDS experts and would be supporters say the state spends about \$200 million on HIV patients annually and creating a commission to reduce transmission rates would save the state millions. Currently, 500 people in Massachusetts are diagnosed with HIV every year.

News **10/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

It's flu season; the flu can be deadly for the elderly and infants but it also can take a toll on teenagers. Dr. Jonathan Schwab of Northampton Pediatrics told us that he thinks it's very important for teenagers to get the flu shot. He said that's important for the health of your family and the school your teenager attends. Middle Schools and High Schools can be a breeding ground for flu and cold so a flu shot is your best defense against this disease. He said not getting the shot could make your child fall behind in his or her studies.

News **10/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

We keep hearing about the benefits of renewable energy, but could wind turbines pose a health hazard? Green energy companies are proposing to build more wind farms in Western Massachusetts, and folks who don't want them in their backyards say they're worried they can cause a whole host of health problems. Families from Brimfield are testifying before the Legislature's public health committee, asking lawmakers to set up an independent commission to evaluate whether wind turbines can cause health problems. They say homeowners in the Berkshires and the Cape who live by wind turbines complain that they cause headaches, sleeplessness, and heart problems. A key reason for the state's push toward wind energy is Governor Deval Patrick's goal to get 800,000 homes powered by wind turbines by 2020. But Representative Todd Smola of Palmer says the effects wind farms have in host communities hasn't been properly studied by independent experts and professionals; so he's filed a bill to make that happen. Earlier this year First Wind, an independent energy company, backed out of a proposed deal to build a wind farm in Brimfield

after receiving vocal disapproval from local residents.

News **11/10/11** **5pm** **: 30**

One school in Northampton is getting thousands of dollars to fight big tobacco. It's a youth-led movement called the 84. The 84, represents the 84% of teens in Massachusetts, who choose not to smoke. Northampton High School and Smith Vocational high school received a grant from the 84 to start programs in their schools where young people can advocate for their communities to be tobacco-free. School administrators at Northampton High told 22News they were interested in starting a chapter at the school after they found a slight increase in the number of students who smoked.

News **11/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

UMass Amherst is making some serious cuts to its University Health Services. About 22 jobs are being cut from the University Health Services. The pharmacy is being closed. And the hours for the walk in clinic are being reduced. A spokesperson for UMass Amherst told us that these cuts will save them about one million dollars a year. They say that will help them cover increasing costs and save to one day replace the aging facility. But, students say they are putting costs before their student's health.

News **11/17/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Today is the Great American Smoke out, a day aimed at getting smokers to quit for good. According to the American Cancer Society, 46 million Americans smoke despite the impact it has on their health. Half of these smokers have attempted to quit for a day in the last year, but one Baystate Medical Center doctor says the key is to want to quit.

News **11/17/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A 12-year old girl died of meningitis in the eastern part of the state raising questions about whether students in her school are susceptible to the virus. It's a rare infection, but can be deadly. Bacterial meningitis recently took the life of a 12-year old girl in the eastern part of the state. It's something many parents don't think often about but are concerned about. Anything like that would make me nervous, especially having a child; you want them to be safe. Although extremely uncommon, bacterial meningitis is quite serious. There is also viral meningitis which is not deadly. Dr. Daniel Skiest is the Chief of Infectious Diseases at Baystate Medical Center and says there are small differences between the two infections. Viral meningitis is a common virus that can affect the brain. Usually it's benign and there's no treatment. Patients have headache, fever, maybe confusion and stiff neck, but get better within a week. Bacterial meningitis is usually more severe; high fever, but the only way to know for sure is through a spinal tap. The only way to contract the virus is through contact with saliva, sharing a water bottle or a cough. But, parents should be aware of the symptoms and consider getting their kids vaccinated.

News **12/02/11** **11pm** **: 30**

And a quick HIV test could save a life. Today, Tapestry Health held free rapid HIV testing events; one was held at UMASS Amherst. People were told their results in just 20 minutes. Approximately 50,000 Americans become infected with the potentially deadly virus this year and that's why students and organizations say it's so important to get tested.

News **12/04/11** **9am** **: 30**

A Massachusetts group that supports medical marijuana says it has filed enough signatures to add the question on next year's ballot. The proposal would allow patients with debilitating medical conditions such as cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis to get permission from their doctors to use marijuana. The plan calls for the state to register up to 35 nonprofit medical treatment centers around the state to distribute the marijuana.

News **12/05/11** **11pm** **: 30**

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News **12/14/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

MassHealth serves 1 out of every 5 people in the state, but some residents say that's not enough. The state's health care and finance policy department says only 1 point 6 percent of residents in Massachusetts do not have health care. That is due largely in part to the state's health care reform. But a UMass Amherst poll found that 39% of voters believe the reform has improved health care in the state but the majority of those respondents don't find the reform has had an impact on them.

News **12/16/11** **5am** **: 30**

You've heard of Medicare for seniors, well how about Medicare for all? Employers, lawmakers and health groups are banning together, advocating for a single-payer health care system, like Medicare. In a single-payer system, medical care is funded by a single insurance pool, run by the state instead of private companies. Supporters say this system provides health care for all, and the larger insurance pool means lowers costs. Critics say leaving the health system in the hands of the state leads to administrative waste, longer wait times, and a so-called "rationing of care." Governor Deval Patrick has come out in favor of Accountable Care Organizations to curb rising health care costs, a system that reimburses hospitals for keeping patients healthy. Currently Canada and several European countries employ variations of the single-payer system.

News **12/19/11** **6am** **: 30**

If you're looking for motivation to keep your new year's resolution to quit smoking: A new study finds women who smoke are more likely to develop skin cancer. The study looked at three hundred patients with skin cancer, and compared them to a similar number of people without the disease. Researchers found women who smoked had an increased risk for squamous Cell skin cancer, and the more they smoked the higher their risk for the disease.

News

12/20/11

6pm

: 30

The Legislature's Public Health Committee advanced more than a dozen bills. Lawmakers have recommended 16 bills listed here that cover everything from health care for minors, regulating trans-fats, and modernizing HIV prevention. 16 bills that aim to preserve a healthy public have cleared a major first step toward passage they've been reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Public Health. One proposes to give abandoned or runaway children the ability to access health care without parental consent. Another allows caregivers to volunteer their services without liability. The Senate Chairperson of the Committee, Susan Fargo, said there's momentum for another bill she supports that proposes to remove trans-fats from restaurant cooking and prepared foods. Building on fall campaign efforts, a bill that proposes an HIV Prevention Commission received a favorable recommendation. The Commission will bring together medical experts and service providers to look at ways to bring the rate of HIV infections down to zero. These bills will now be reviewed by financial committees for further evaluation.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 4TH quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News **10/04/11** **6pm** **: 30**

One third of Massachusetts voters say someone in their household has been laid off. 35% of people in the UMass Lowell-Boston Herald Poll said a member of their family has been without a job since 2007. That's not surprising to many who are struggling to find a job.

News **10/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

180 employees of the Hasbro manufacturing plant in East Longmeadow will be out of work through the holidays. Hasbro says this latest round of cuts is only temporary and these 180 workers will return in January but some say it's just a sign of what's to come. It appears Hasbro has produced enough to meet the retailer demand for the rest of the year that means it's temporarily letting 180 manufacturing employees go. The workers will be laid off starting in November, but Hasbro Vice President of Corporate Communications Gary Serby told 22News they hope to hire them back by the end of January 2012. This announcement comes only months after the company announced it was permanently cutting or moving 145 jobs from the East Longmeadow location. All those workers were potential customers at nearby smaller businesses. And it's also bad news for those looking for a job in the area. Hasbro isn't the only company cutting jobs or moving them out of the area. Hasbro recently invested about 25 million dollars into this East Longmeadow plant. The spokesperson from the company said its part of a long term goal to increase productivity and keep the plant competitive.

News **11/17/11** **5pm** **: 30**

In Massachusetts the unemployment rate is not down but not up either. It held steady at 7.3% in October. According to figures released today by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the state gained jobs last month in eight of the 10 major private sectors, including education and health services, financial activities and construction. The gain followed a loss of 5,500 jobs in September, when the state's unemployment rate dipped from 7.4% to 7.3%.

News **11/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Black Friday kicks off the holiday shopping season. But it's also the start of the season for holiday part-time workers. As shoppers, flooded the stores this Black Friday, hundreds of workers across western Massachusetts is gearing up for the holiday season. For the unemployed, the temporary work during the season provides much needed income and experience that can often translate into full time jobs. The bureau of labor statistics estimated that 8.9 million workers took on a part time job this season hoping it will turn into something more. But that's a risky gamble the instability can keep employees in a cycle that keeps them

from finding a permanent job. Beyond the holiday season, part time workers now make up the majority of retail workers. Some say the shift away from full time workers began in the 90's when more people began shopping at night and weekend.

News **11/25/11** **5pm** **: 30**

It's the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season that means it's time for seasonal workers to get to work. Now that people are shopping earlier and later the need for part time workers continues to rise. The bureau of labor statistics says part time workers make up about 19 percent of total employment this year. Many hope their part time or seasonal job will turn into full time work. 30% of part time workers were searching for full time jobs. Experts say most employers choose seasonal and part timers to cover holiday demand, but remain leery of adding full time staff in a wobbly economy. Some say a seasonal job isn't worth the cost of child care alone and they'll wait for a full time job.

News **12/02/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The unemployment rate fell last month to its lowest level in two and a half years. According to the labor department, the rate dropped to 8.6%, down from 9% in October. It's the lowest the rate has been since March 2009. Despite the drop from 9%, house speaker John Boehner stressed that President Obama has not delivered his promise to the American people of the unemployment rate remaining under 8%.

News **12/02/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

There is state money out there for local businesses to improve the skills of their workforce. Mountain View Landscape employs more than 60 people and is constantly training new employees. Now they might actually be able to get money for it. The workforce training fund allows companies to improve the skills of their employees with grant money from the state. The bottom line is every company has to be quicker, smarter and better and do it cheaper and do it faster. How you do that; you have to train your people. The General program allows any business to apply for money to train their employees at costs up to \$250,000 dollars. The Express program awards money to businesses with 50 or fewer employees who are willing to pay half the cost of the training. And, The Hiring Incentive Training program allocates money to companies that hire people who've been unemployed for six months or Veterans who are currently without a job. Since it's inception in 1999, the program has distributed more than \$200 million dollars to over 3000 companies. That means hundreds of thousands of worker have been trained to do jobs just like this. Through proper training people learn to be more efficient and get into a job, get out without asking questions on the job. Getting the training before you go to the job site, get the job done and make the money. Some much needed financial help for companies that are trying to improve their workforce in spite of these difficult economic times.

News **12/04/11** **9am** **: 30**

More than 150 Postal service jobs from Springfield are moving out of the area. The Postal Service has announced that they are closing the Springfield Processing and Distribution Center. They say the reason is because of the reduced volume of mail. Mail was down more than 9 billion pieces last year.

News **12/05/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

If Congress doesn't act by the end of the year, unemployment benefits for about two million Americans will expire. According to the state's labor and workforce development office, there are still more than 253 thousand people out of a job in our state. A deal is in the works to extend all of the Bush tax cuts for two years and extend federal unemployment benefits for a year. At Future Works career center in Springfield today there were dozens of people putting together resumes or bettering their skills with hopes of landing a job.

News **12/07/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Some people in Springfield were hoping to get out of the unemployment line today. The Urban League of Springfield hosted its bi-annual job fair at the Basketball Hall of Fame and lots of people turned out hoping to land a job. Businesses were hiring and there were on-site mini workshops to help job seekers sharpen their skills. One applicant told 22News it's a challenge, not only finding a job but finding one that fits your needs.

News **12/13/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A local non-profit is working to expand the job market in Springfield. Springfield has one of the lowest rates of employment in New England with only 63 percent of employed adults. But one local non-profit is looking to change that statistic. It's a program that aims to fuel the Springfield job market. The wellspring initiative is a program designed to establish worker owned business into cooperative businesses. The UMass Center for Public Policy and Administration found that the biggest employers in the region purchase more than 1.5 billion worth of goods and services a year, but only 10% of that money is spent in Springfield. Developers say filling this gap in the market would provide opportunities for those who are on the hunt for a job. A lot of them are going overseas and from a business standpoint you can understand their competitiveness because they are getting cheaper prices. If they are getting the cheaper prices it's kind of worth it to them. But where does that leave us? It leaves us out on the street. What developers are looking to do is build a company from the ground up, it could be a Laundromat or a food processing plant; but it would cater to the need of a large company in the area. And with the overwhelming number of unemployment claims some say this couldn't come at a better time. The Wellspring Initiative has risen over \$300,000 dollars. These funds will kick-start the development phase of this project which will take two years to complete.

News **12/14/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The U.S. Postal Service has decided to delay closing more than 250 mail processing centers and 37-hundred local post offices until mid-May. This includes the bulk mail center in

Springfield. Nearly 170 jobs were on the chopping block there. The Postal Service planned to downsize because of budget problems. But Congress asked the agency to wait until lawmaker's debate a postal reform bill. This comes amid disagreements over the cause of the agency's debt.

News **12/16/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The state unemployment rate has dropped to a near three-year low of 7%. November's jobless rate dipped from 7.3% in October. The State Office of Labor and Workforce Development is reporting an estimated increase of about 5,000 jobs last month. The jobless rate was the lowest monthly figure since December 2008. Massachusetts also remains well below the national unemployment rate, which stood at 8.6% last month.

News **12/17/11** **9am** **: 30**

A controversial new measure proposed in Congress has plenty of people talking drug testing for unemployment benefits. A dozen different states have proposed such a measure this year, even though federal law currently doesn't allow states to enforce it. But that could change. This week, House Republicans passed a bill that would give states the green light to require drug testing for jobless benefits. The proposal now heads to the House Ways and Means Committee.

News **12/28/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Free job search advice is just a phone call away. For the 26th year, Global Outplacement Firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. is offering free job search advice to callers nationwide. You can call today until 5 pm central. The telephone number is 312-422-5010. Job seekers can get more information about the call-in at the firm's website at www.challengergray.com.

News **12/29/11** **12pm** **: 30**

In consumer news today, the latest numbers on jobless claims suggest that hiring could pick up. The four-week average of the number of new claims has dropped to 375,000, the lowest in more than three years. Stocks are higher today, with shares in homebuilding companies rising sharply. This, after the National Association of Realtors said contracts to buy homes rose to the highest level in a year and a half.